WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a computing device, a method comprising:

maintaining, on a client device, state information associated with an identifier of a filtered-out message, the state information indicating that the message was filtered out for not having met filtering criteria;

determining whether message data corresponding to an identified message is to be downloaded from a server to the client device, including determining that the client device does not already have the message data and that the message does not have the associated state information that indicates the message was filtered out for not having met the filtering criteria; and

if it is determined that the message data is to be downloaded, downloading the message data corresponding to the message to the client device.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein maintaining the state information comprises maintaining a record for each message of a set of at least one message, the record identifying the message relative to any other message.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising, obtaining a list of messages from the server.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein obtaining the list of messages comprises issuing a UIDL command to a POP3 server and receiving a plurality of unique message identifiers in response.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein maintaining the state information comprises maintaining a recordset comprising a record for each message, each record identifying a message relative to any other message, and further comprising, marking each record, processing the list of messages obtained from the server, and unmarking each record upon determining that the record corresponds to a message identified in the list such that each record corresponding to a message that is not in the list remains marked.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising, removing a record from the recordset if that record remains marked after processing the list of messages.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein marking each record comprises setting a flag associated with each record.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising, determining that the filtering criteria has changed, and in response, invalidating the state information.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the state information is maintained in a record for each filtered-out message, and further comprising, determining that the filtering criteria has changed, and in response, removing the record from a set of records.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising, determining whether the downloaded message data corresponding to the message meets the filtering criteria, and if so, saving the message data to a message store.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising, determining whether the downloaded message data corresponding to the message meets the filtering criteria, and if not, maintaining state information for that message indicating that the message was filtered out for not having met the filtering criteria

12. The method of claim 11 wherein maintaining the state information for that message comprises creating a record for that message, the record including a field that uniquely identifies the message.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the filtering criteria comprises a time window.

14. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions which when executed, perform the method of claim 1.

15. In a computing device, a method comprising:

retrieving a list of message identifiers from a server;

for each message identifier, determining whether the message identifier corresponds to a message that meets filtering criteria, does not meet the filtering criteria or is unknown with respect to the filtering criteria; and

for each message that is unknown with respect to the filtering criteria, downloading message data from the server, evaluating the message data to determine whether the message meets or does not meet the filtering criteria, and persisting data indicative of whether the message met or did not meet the filtering criteria.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein retrieving the list of messages comprises issuing a UIDL command to a POP3 server.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein determining whether the message identifier corresponds to a message that meets the

filtering criteria comprises determining whether message data is saved in a message store.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein determining whether message data is saved in a message store comprises evaluating a set of message store records.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein determining whether the message identifier corresponds to a message that does not meet the filtering criteria comprises determining whether a record for that message exists in a set of records for already checked messages.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein message data is downloaded for a message, wherein the message data indicates that the message does not meet the filtering criteria, and wherein persisting data comprises adding a record to the set of records for already checked messages, the record identifying the message.

21. The method of claim 15 wherein determining whether the message identifier corresponds to a message that meets filtering criteria, does not meet the filtering criteria or is unknown

with respect to the filtering criteria comprises evaluating at least one set of records.

22. The method of claim 21 further comprising, removing a record if that record does not correspond to a message identifier in the list of messages.

23. The method of claim 21 further comprising unmarking a record marked for possible removal when it is determined that the message identifier corresponds to a message that meets filtering criteria or does not meet the filtering criteria.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein unmarking the record comprises clearing a flag associated with the record.

25. The method of claim 19 wherein message data is downloaded for a message, wherein the message data indicates that the message meets the filtering criteria, and wherein persisting data comprises saving the message data to a message store.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising, adding a record to a set of records that each identify a message that has its message data saved in the message store.

26. The method of claim 15 wherein the filtering criteria comprises a time window, and wherein evaluating each message that is unknown with respect to the filtering criteria comprises evaluating downloaded message data against the time window.

27. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions which when executed, perform the method of claim 15.

28. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a set of records, each record having data that identifies a message with associated message data that has been evaluated against filtering criteria and failed to meet the filtering criteria; and

wherein when a request to synchronize client data with server data is received, at least one message identifier of a list of message identifiers received from the server is processed against the set of records, to determine, for each such processed message identifier, whether message data corresponding to that message identifier needs to be downloaded for comparing against the filtering criteria, or whether the

processed identifier corresponds to a message that already failed to meet the filtering criteria.

29. The data structure of claim 28 wherein the data in the record that identifies the message comprises a hash value corresponding to a unique message identifier.

30. The data structure of claim 28 wherein the data in the record that identifies the message corresponds to a unique message identifier of a POP3 message.

31. The data structure of claim 28 wherein each record further includes a flag that is used to determine whether the message corresponding to that record was listed in the list received from the server.

32. The data structure of claim 28 wherein at least some of the records include a field having data representative of a time or date.